WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition for delivery of a 5-HT agonist across the oral mucosa, said composition comprising:

(a) a 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(b) a carrier; and

(c) a ternary buffer system comprising a carbonate salt, a bicarbonate salt, and a metal oxide,

wherein said ternary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

2. A composition of claim **1**, wherein said ternary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH of from about 9.9 to about 11 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

3. A composition of claim **1**, wherein said 5-HT agonist is selected from the group consisting of sumatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, almotriptan, zolmitriptan, frovatriptan, and combinations thereof.

4. A composition of claim **1**, wherein said carbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate and potassium carbonate.

5. A composition of claim **1**, wherein said bicarbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

6. A composition of claim **1**, wherein said metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide and aluminum oxide.

7. A composition of claim **6**, wherein said magnesium oxide is amorphous magnesium oxide.

8. A composition of claim **1**, wherein said ternary buffer system comprises sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and amorphous magnesium oxide.

9. A composition of claim **1**, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of a binder, a gum base, and combinations thereof.

10. A composition of claim **9**, wherein said gum base comprises at least one hydrophobic polymer and at least one hydrophilic polymer.

11. A composition of claim 9, wherein said binder is selected from the group consisting of a sugar, a sugar alcohol, and combinations thereof.

12. A composition of claim 11, wherein said sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, and combinations thereof.

13. A composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a chewing gum, a chewable tablet, and a dissolving tablet.

14. A composition of claim 13, wherein said dissolving tablet is selected from the group consisting of a slow-dissolving tablet and a quick-dissolving tablet.

15. A composition of claim 1, wherein said oral mucosa is selected from the group consisting of the sublingual mucosa, the buccal mucosa, and a combination thereof.

16. A composition of claim 1, further comprising a 5-HT antagonist.

17. A composition of claim 1, further comprising a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).

18. A composition of claim 1, wherein the average particle size of said 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is less than or equal to the average particle size of said carrier.

19. A composition of claim 1, wherein said 5-HT agonist is sumatriptan and said ternary buffer system comprises sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and amorphous magnesium oxide.

20. A composition of claim 19, wherein said composition is a lozenge or a dissolving tablet.

21. A composition of claim 20, wherein said composition is administered sublingually.

22. A composition of claim 19, wherein said sodium bicarbonate is dessicant-coated sodium bicarbonate.

23. A composition of claim 19, wherein the weight percent of amorphous magnesium oxide is greater than the combined weight percent of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate.

24. A composition of claim 23, wherein said composition comprises from about 2.5 to about 4.5 weight percent sumatriptan; from about 4.0 to about 7.0 weight percent sodium carbonate; from about 8.0 to about 12.0 weight percent dessicant-coated sodium bicarbonate; and from about 20 to about 30 weight percent amorphous magnesium oxide.

25. A composition of claim 24, wherein composition comprises about 3.5 weight percent sumatriptan; about 5.5 weight percent sodium carbonate; about 9.0 weight percent dessicant-coated sodium bicarbonate; and about 25 weight percent amorphous magnesium oxide.

26. A composition for delivery of a 5-HT agonist across the oral mucosa, said composition comprising:

(a) a 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(b) a carrier; and

(c) a ternary buffer system comprising a carbonate salt, a bicarbonate salt, and a citrate, phosphate, or borate salt,

wherein said ternary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

27. A composition of claim 26, wherein said ternary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH of from about 9.9 to about 11 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

28. A composition of claim 26, wherein said 5-HT agonist is selected from the group consisting of sumatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, almotriptan, zolmitriptan, frovatriptan, and combinations thereof.

29. A composition of claim 26, wherein said carbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate and potassium carbonate.

30. A composition of claim 26, wherein said bicarbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

31. A composition of claim 26, wherein said citrate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium citrate, potassium citrate, calcium citrate, magnesium citrate, and ammonium citrate.

32. A composition of claim 26, wherein said phosphate salt is selected from the group consisting of monobasic sodium phosphate, dibasic sodium phosphate, monobasic potassium phosphate, dibasic potassium phosphate, monobasic calcium phosphate, dibasic calcium phosphate, monobasic magnesium phosphate, dibasic magnesium phosphate, monobasic ammonium phosphate, and dibasic ammonium phosphate.

33. A composition of claim 26, wherein said borate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium borate, potassium borate, calcium borate, magnesium borate, and ammonium borate.

34. A composition of claim 26, further comprising a metal oxide.

35. A composition of claim 26, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of a binder, a gum base, and combinations thereof.

36. A composition of claim 26, wherein said composition is a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a chewing gum, a chewable tablet, and a dissolving tablet.

37. A composition of claim 36, wherein said dissolving tablet is selected from the group consisting of a slow-dissolving tablet and a quick-dissolving tablet.

38. A composition of claim 26, wherein said oral mucosa is selected from the group consisting of the sublingual mucosa, the buccal mucosa, and a combination thereof.

39. A composition of claim 26, wherein the average particle size of said 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is less than or equal to the average particle size of said carrier.

40. A composition of claim 26, wherein said 5-HT agonist is sumatriptan and said ternary buffer system comprises sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and a citrate, phosphate, or borate salt.

41. A composition of claim 40, wherein said composition is a lozenge or a dissolving tablet.

42. A composition of claim 41, wherein said composition is administered sublingually.

43. A composition for delivery of a 5-HT agonist across the oral mucosa, said composition comprising:

(a) a 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(b) a carrier; and

(c) a buffer system comprising a carbonate salt or a bicarbonate salt and two or more buffering agents selected from the group consisting of a metal oxide, a citrate salt, a phosphate salt, and a borate salt,

wherein said buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

44. A composition of claim 43, wherein said ternary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH of from about 9.9 to about 11 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

45. A composition of claim 43, wherein said 5-HT agonist is selected from the group consisting of sumatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, almotriptan, zolmitriptan, frovatriptan, and combinations thereof.

46. A composition of claim 43, wherein said carbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate and potassium carbonate.

47. A composition of claim 43, wherein said bicarbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

48. A composition of claim 43, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of a binder, a gum base, and combinations thereof.

49. A composition of claim 43, wherein said composition is a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a chewing gum, a chewable tablet, and a dissolving tablet.

50. A composition of claim 49, wherein said dissolving tablet is selected from the group consisting of a slow-dissolving tablet and a quick-dissolving tablet.

51. A composition of claim 43, wherein said oral mucosa is selected from the group consisting of the sublingual mucosa, the buccal mucosa, and a combination thereof.

52. A composition of claim 43, wherein the average particle size of said 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is less than or equal to the average particle size of said carrier.

53. A composition of claim 43, wherein said composition is administered sublingually.

54. A composition for delivery of a 5-HT agonist across the oral mucosa, said composition comprising:

(a) a 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(b) a carrier; and

(c) a binary buffer system comprising a carbonate salt or a bicarbonate salt and a metal oxide,

wherein said binary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

55. A composition of claim 54, wherein said binary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH of from about 9.9 to about 11 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

56. A composition of claim 54, wherein said 5-HT agonist is selected from the group consisting of sumatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, almotriptan, zolmitriptan, frovatriptan, and combinations thereof.

57. A composition of claim 54, wherein said carbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate and potassium carbonate.

58. A composition of claim 54, wherein said bicarbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

59. A composition of claim 54, wherein said metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide and aluminum oxide.

60. A composition of claim 59, wherein said magnesium oxide is amorphous magnesium oxide.

61. A composition of claim 54, wherein said binary buffer system comprises sodium carbonate and amorphous magnesium oxide.

62. A composition of claim 54, wherein said binary buffer system comprises sodium bicarbonate and amorphous magnesium oxide.

63. A composition of claim 54, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of a binder, a gum base, and combinations thereof.

64. A composition of claim 54, wherein said composition is a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a chewing gum, a chewable tablet, and a dissolving tablet.

65. A composition of claim 56, wherein said dissolving tablet is selected from the group consisting of a slow-dissolving tablet and a quick-dissolving tablet.

66. A composition of claim 54, wherein said oral mucosa is selected from the group consisting of the sublingual mucosa, the buccal mucosa, and a combination thereof.

67. A composition of claim 54, wherein the average particle size of said 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is less than or equal to the average particle size of said carrier.

68. A composition of claim 54, wherein said 5-HT agonist is sumatriptan and said binary buffer system comprises sodium carbonate or sodium bicarbonate and amorphous magnesium oxide.

69. A composition of claim 68, wherein said composition is a lozenge or a dissolving tablet.

70. A composition of claim 69, wherein said composition is administered sublingually.

71. A composition of claim 68, wherein the weight percent of amorphous magnesium oxide is greater than the weight percent of sodium carbonate or sodium bicarbonate.

72. A composition for delivery of a 5-HT agonist across the oral mucosa, said composition comprising:

(a) a 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(b) a carrier; and

(c) a binary buffer system comprising a carbonate salt or a bicarbonate salt and a citrate, phosphate, or borate salt,

wherein said binary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

73. A composition of claim 72, wherein said binary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH of from about 9.9 to about 11 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

74. A composition of claim 72, wherein said 5-HT agonist is selected from the group consisting of sumatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, almotriptan, zolmitriptan, frovatriptan, and combinations thereof.

75. A composition of claim 72, wherein said carbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate and potassium carbonate.

76. A composition of claim 72, wherein said bicarbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

77. A composition of claim 72, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of a binder, a gum base, and combinations thereof.

78. A composition of claim 72, wherein said composition is a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a chewing gum, a chewable tablet, and a dissolving tablet.

79. A composition of claim 78, wherein said dissolving tablet is selected from the group consisting of a slow-dissolving tablet and a quick-dissolving tablet.

80. A composition of claim **72**, wherein said oral mucosa is selected from the group consisting of the sublingual mucosa, the buccal mucosa, and a combination thereof.

81. A composition of claim **72**, wherein the average particle size of said 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is less than or equal to the average particle size of said carrier.

82. A composition of claim **72**, wherein said 5-HT agonist is sumatriptan and said binary buffer system comprises sodium carbonate or sodium bicarbonate and and a citrate, phosphate, or borate salt.

83. A composition of claim **82**, wherein said composition is a lozenge or a dissolving tablet.

84. A composition of claim **83**, wherein said composition is administered sublingually.

85. A composition for delivery of a 5-HT agonist across the oral mucosa, said composition comprising:

(a) a 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(b) a carrier; and

(c) a binary buffer system comprising a metal oxide and a citrate, phosphate, or borate salt,

wherein said binary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

86. A composition of claim **85**, wherein said binary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH of from about 9.9 to about 11 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

87. A composition of claim **85**, wherein said 5-HT agonist is selected from the group consisting of sumatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, almotriptan, zolmitriptan, frovatriptan, and combinations thereof.

88. A composition of claim **85**, wherein said metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide and aluminum oxide.

89. A composition of claim 88, wherein said magnesium oxide is amorphous magnesium oxide.

90. A composition of claim 85, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of a binder, a gum base, and combinations thereof.

91. A composition of claim 85, wherein said composition is a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a chewing gum, a chewable tablet, and a dissolving tablet.

92. A composition of claim 91, wherein said dissolving tablet is selected from the group consisting of a slow-dissolving tablet and a quick-dissolving tablet.

93. A composition of claim 85, wherein said oral mucosa is selected from the group consisting of the sublingual mucosa, the buccal mucosa, and a combination thereof.

94. A composition of claim 85, wherein the average particle size of said 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is less than or equal to the average particle size of said carrier.

95. A composition of claim 85, wherein said 5-HT agonist is sumatriptan and said binary buffer system comprises amorphous magnesium oxide and a citrate, phosphate, or borate salt.

96. A composition of claim 95, wherein said composition is a lozenge or a dissolving tablet.

97. A composition of claim 96, wherein said composition is administered sublingually.

98. A composition for delivery of a 5-HT agonist across the oral mucosa, said composition comprising:

(a) a 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(b) a carrier; and

(c) a binary buffer system comprising a carbonate salt and a bicarbonate salt,

wherein said binary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

99. A composition of claim **98**, wherein said 5-HT agonist is sumatriptan and said binary buffer system is combined with sumatriptan to form a solution just prior to delivery of sumatriptan to the oral mucosa.

100. A composition of claim **98**, wherein said 5-HT agonist is sumatriptan and said binary buffer system comprises sodium bicarbonate and sodium carbonate wherein the ratio of sodium bicarbonate to sodium carbonate is from about 2:1 to about 5:1 by weight.

101. A composition of claim **100**, said composition delivering a peak plasma concentration within about 1-15 minutes following administration.

102. A method for treating a migraine in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising:

administering to said subject a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of sumatriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a carrier, and a binary buffer system comprising a carbonate salt and a bicarbonate salt, wherein said binary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

103. A method in accordance with claim **102**, wherein said composition is a solution composition.

104. A method in accordance with claim **103**, wherein said binary buffer system comprises sodium bicarbonate and sodium carbonate wherein the ratio of sodium bicarbonate to sodium carbonate is from about 2:1 to about 5:1 by weight, and said composition provides a peak plasma concentration within about 1-15 minutes following administration to said subject.

105. A method for treating a migraine in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising:

administering to said subject a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a carrier,

and a ternary buffer system comprising a carbonate salt, a bicarbonate salt, and a metal oxide, wherein said ternary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH greater than about 9.9 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

106. A method of claim **105**, wherein said ternary buffer system raises the pH of saliva to a pH of from about 9.9 to about 11 irrespective of the starting pH of saliva.

107. A method of claim **105**, wherein said composition delivers said 5-HT agonist across the oral mucosa.

108. A method of claim **107**, wherein said oral mucosa is selected from the group consisting of the sublingual mucosa, the buccal mucosa, and a combination thereof.

109. A method of claim **105**, wherein said migraine is selected from the group consisting of a migraine without aura and a migraine with aura.

110. A method of claim **105**, wherein said 5-HT agonist is selected from the group consisting of sumatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, almotriptan, zolmitriptan, frovatriptan, and combinations thereof.

111. A method of claim **105**, wherein said carbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate and potassium carbonate.

112. A method of claim **105**, wherein said bicarbonate salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and potassium bicarbonate.

113. A method of claim **105**, wherein said metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide and aluminum oxide.

114. A method of claim **113**, wherein said magnesium oxide is amorphous magnesium oxide.

115. A method of claim **105**, wherein said ternary buffer system comprises sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and amorphous magnesium oxide.

116. A method of claim **105**, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of a binder, a gum base, and combinations thereof.

117. A method of claim **105**, wherein said composition is a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a chewing gum, a chewable tablet, and a dissolving tablet.

118. A method of claim **117**, wherein said dissolving tablet is selected from the group consisting of a slow-dissolving tablet and a quick-dissolving tablet.

119. A method of claim **105**, wherein said oral mucosa is selected from the group consisting of the sublingual mucosa, the buccal mucosa, and a combination thereof.

120. A method of claim **105**, further comprising a 5-HT antagonist.

121. A method of claim **105**, further comprising a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).

122. A method of claim **105**, wherein the average particle size of said 5-HT agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is less than or equal to the average particle size of said carrier.

123. A method of claim **105**, wherein said 5-HT agonist is sumatriptan and said ternary buffer system comprises sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and amorphous magnesium oxide.

124. A method of claim **123**, wherein said composition is a lozenge or a dissolving tablet.

125. A method of claim **124**, wherein said composition is administered sublingually.

126. A method of claim **123**, wherein the weight percent of amorphous magnesium oxide is greater than the combined weight percent of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate.